DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Leo Drozdoff, Administrator

PURPOSE:

The Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) is responsible for environmental regulatory programs for the protection of the health and welfare and environment of the public. The division's legislative mandate calls for achieving and maintaining levels of air and water quality consistent with the public health and enjoyment, the propagation and protection of terrestrial and aquatic life, the operation of existing industries, the pursuit of agriculture, all while supporting policies that contribute to a vibrant economy.

The division continues to encourage and promote the use of methods of waste collection to protect land and water resources. The division also operates the Chemical Accident Prevention Program (CAPP) to protect public health from accidents at facilities using highly hazardous materials. The division operates programs to cleanup environmental contamination and programs to restore mining lands to a productive post-mining land use.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:

The division is divided into the Administration Office and nine bureaus: Air Quality Planning, Air Pollution Control, Water Pollution Control, Water Quality Planning, Mining Regulation and Reclamation, Corrective Actions, Waste Management, Federal Facilities, and Environmental Information and Planning. The division also provides staff support to the State Environmental Commission, the Board to Review Petroleum Claims, and the Board for Financing Water Projects. The division maintains offices in Carson City and Las Vegas.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:	NRS 232.136, 444, 444A, 445A, 445B, 445C, 459, 486A, 519A, 590, and 704
NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:	219 FTE / 2004
TELEPHONE:	775.687.4670
WEB SITE ADDRESS:	www.ndep.nv.gov

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

PURPOSE:

Provide policy and programmatic support to nine bureaus, two boards, and one commission. Manage and support the Office of Fiscal and Personnel Management and the Las Vegas office.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Increase data capacity to make effective use of information technology. Streamline agency business processes and enable sound decision-making.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Internal reorganization established the Bureau of Environmental Information and Planning. This new organizational unit brings together information technology staff, agency planning staff, and public information staff. The bureau has been awarded grants associated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Environmental Information Exchange Network and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Environmental Public Health Tracking System.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Improve internal and external communications to enhance staff productivity and foster a greater understanding of the division's role in addressing the state's environmental issues.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Created i-MapNV to enable interactive mapping of environmental sites.
- Enhanced the content of the web site to provide a greater depth of environmental information.
- Reclassified an internal position to a Public Information Officer in order to coordinate agency communications, public outreach, and to manage media relations.

KEY LONG-TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Achieve and maintain levels of air quality to protect human health and safety; prevent injury to plant and animal life; prevent damage to property; and to preserve the scenic, historical, and aesthetic treasures of the state.
- Protect the waters of the state from the discharge of pollutants. Preserve beneficial uses of water and maintain healthy aquatic habitat.
- Ensure safe management of solid and hazardous waste; promote waste reduction, reuse, and recycling; and minimize the risk of chemical accidents.
- Assess and, if necessary, cleanup contaminated properties to levels appropriate for beneficial re-use.
- Provide financial and technical assistance to businesses and municipalities to enable compliance with environmental laws; to inform the public about the quality of the environment and issues of concern; and to involve citizens in decision-making processes.

Abandoned Electrowinning fluids and drummed materials involved in a removal project that the state took over in January 2003 and completed in July 2003.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE OR EXECUTIVE ACTIONS AFFECTING THE AGENCY:

- AB74 of the 2003 Legislative Session provided authority to establish a Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund to help finance restoration of contaminated properties to a beneficial re-use.
- AB129 of the 2003 Legislative Session clarified authority for the State Treasurer to provide interest on various funds that the division manages.
- AB473 of the 2003 Legislative Session transferred the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Program from the State Health Division to NDEP.
- SB58 of the 2003 Legislative Session established authority to certify labs performing analyses related to hazardous waste and other contaminants.
- SB127 of the 2003 Legislative Session clarified and reformed various provisions of the CAPP law.

BUREAU OF AIR QUALITY PLANNING

PURPOSE:

Plan, develop, and implement air pollution control programs. Evaluate potential air quality impacts and establish appropriate pollution control requirements through the preparation of state implementation plans, the development of regulations, and conduct ambient air monitoring. Responsible for implementing the conversion of public fleets from fossil fuels to alternative fuels. Coordinate with the Department of Motor Vehicles on the vehicle emission inspection program in Clark and Washoe counties, including a program for heavy-duty diesel trucks. Responsible for ensuring air quality compliance. Provide technical assistance to the regulated community.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Operate and maintain an ambient air quality monitoring network to determine areas that approach or exceed the established state and federal health and welfare standards.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the state's use of hydrographic basins as the planning area for the purposes of air quality planning in Nevada.
- Nevada is in compliance with the new federal standard for particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5) throughout the state and with the new eight-hour ozone standard, except for the central and southern portions of Clark County.

Air quality monitoring shelter.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Identify and monitor sources of air pollutants that may affect public health and the environment. Maintain an accurate inventory of air pollutant emissions from both stationary and area sources, which is necessary to complete local and regional haze planning.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Completed the emission inventory and increment modeling for the Fernley area, along the Truckee River corridor, and near Valmy necessary to facilitate future development while meeting air quality standards.
- Continued to work with proposed and existing businesses, developers, and land use planners to address air quality issues.

Fugitive dust in Pahrump.

Photo by Paul Huys
March 2003

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Work with local government and sources of air pollution to effectively control the emissions of air pollutants in areas that are not in attainment with state or federal standards.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Continued to evaluate and establish effective air pollution control measures through permitting, planning, and coordination with local government.

Experimental Ford Focus fuel cell vehicle.

Fuel cells run on hydrogen fuel and produce electricity that powers the electric motor. The only byproduct produced is water.

May 2004
Photo by Sigurd Jaunarajs

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Develop an emissions inventory including the modeling and creating control measures necessary for an approvable regional haze state implementation plan.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Continued to work extensively with Clark County on the development of its particulate matter (PM), carbon monoxide, and ozone implementation plans.
- Continued to work extensively with Nye County on the development of its Clean Air Action Plan for PM in an effort to avoid a formal designation of non-attainment.
- Continued to monitor western regional efforts related to EPA's proposed regional haze control rule.

REGIONAL HAZE

VISUAL RANGE = 75 KM

VISUAL RANGE = 350 KM

This is an example of a bad day (VR = 75 km) versus a good day (VR = 350 km) in the Jarbidge Wilderness Area.

BUREAU OF AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

PURPOSE:

Achieve and maintain levels of air quality, which protect human health and safety; prevent injury to plant and animal life; prevent damage to property; and to preserve the scenic, historical, and aesthetic treasures of the state. Evaluate potential air quality impacts and establish appropriate pollution control requirements through the issuance and enforcement of permits for stationary and temporary sources of air pollution in all areas of the state except Clark and Washoe counties. Maintain statewide responsibility for controlling emissions from fossil fired steam electric power operations.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Ensure that air emission sources operate in compliance with established air pollution control regulations and permit requirements.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Continued to evaluate and establish effective air pollution control measures through permitting of new and existing sources of air pollution.
- Finalized all major source Title V permits.

Valmy Power Plant.

Sierra Pacific's coal-fired power plant, 35 miles east of Winnemucca.

Photos courtesy of Arnold Luther, SPPC
January 2005

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Work with sources of air pollution to effectively control the emissions of air pollutants.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Continued to provide streamlined and cost effective permit processes for smaller industrial sources and temporary construction activities through Class III and general permits.
- Expanded outreach efforts for notifying land developers of permit and dust control requirements.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Identify and monitor sources of air pollutants, which may affect public health and the environment.

Limestone crushing and screening operations.

Nevada Cement plant at Fernley.

Photo by Michael Yamada
June 2004

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Continued to work with developers, land use planners, and new industrial sources to address air quality issues in the Fernley area and along the Truckee River corridor.

Asphalt plant operations.

A&K Earth Movers, Desert Mountain,
14 miles SE of Fallon.

Photo by Jeryl Gardner
May 2004

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Maintain an accurate inventory of air pollutant emissions.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Began using an increment tracking system to assist the local government and industry in locating new facilities in the area to better manage the available air resources.

BUREAU OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

PURPOSE:

Oversee remediation/corrective actions related to the cleanup of releases of regulated substances using a multimedia (air, water, soil, and ecological resources) approach. Administer the environmental response program, superfund/brownfields program, a reimbursement fund for tank cleanup, and certify environmental consultants to ensure that competent individuals are providing services and information to the businesses and citizens of the state for environmental cleanups. Responsible for the permitting and regulatory compliance of active water pollution control operations at U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) facilities.

Remediation system located near the fuel terminal tank farm in Sparks.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Continue to work with the EPA to integrate the federal superfund/brownfields activities with state remedial action activities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Investigated and cleaned up approximately 3,109 sites to meet state requirements.
- Investigative efforts continued in Washoe County to evaluate and determine the extent of groundwater contamination by an organic solvent, tetrachloroethene, or perchloroethylene in downtown Reno.
- The former Anaconda Mine site in Lyon County has over 23 work plans in development with the other regulatory agencies, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the EPA to protect groundwater resources, the Walker River, and adjacent lands.
- Continued remedial activities at the former Rio Tinto Mine in northern Elko County.
- Cleanup efforts at the BMI industrial complex in Clark County are ongoing to remediate contaminants and turn the site into useable real property.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Work with DOD to develop acceptable planning schedules for the remediation of contaminated sites in Nevada.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Continued to implement the terms of Consent Agreements with DOD for corrective action and waste management activities conducted on DOD identified installations.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Continue to operate the Petroleum Cleanup Fund and implement the Underground Storage Tank Program.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- In FY04 40 Petroleum Fund cases were opened, with reimbursements to over 1,200 cases of approximately $105 million in Petroleum Fund monies.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Continue certification of environmental consultants by improving testing and establishing reciprocity with other states.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Continued to certify 691 individuals providing environmental remediation services.

Las Vegas sampling conducted to sample surface water for perchlorate concentrations in Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

Photo by Brian Rakvica
October 2003

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Develop and implement a program to receive, respond to, assess, and mitigate environmental emergencies.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

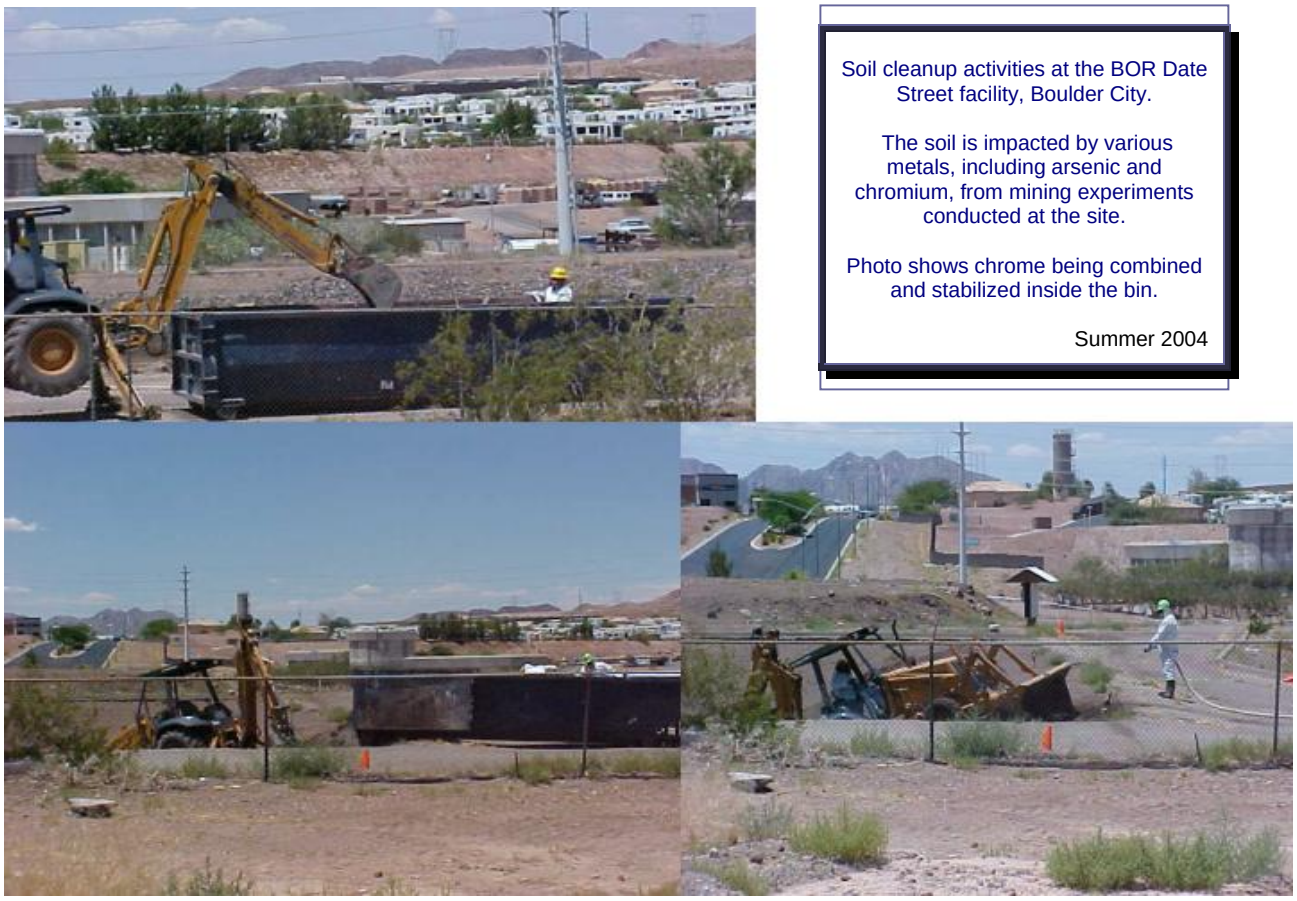
- Trained a team of duty officers, the Environmental Response Team (ERT), that are on call 24 hours to receive reports of releases of hazardous materials. The ERT is available to assist in staffing (not first responders) the State Emergency Operation Center in disaster management and provides technical input and expertise in release incidents. The team received and processed 628 release reports since July 1, 2003.

Soil cleanup activities at the BOR Date Street facility, Boulder City.

The soil is impacted by various metals, including arsenic and chromium, from mining experiments conducted at the site.

The photo shows other waste materials found including asbestos (pipes in bag) and acid waste <2.5 pH.

Summer 2004



Soil cleanup activities at the BOR Date Street facility, Boulder City.

The soil is impacted by various metals, including arsenic and chromium, from mining experiments conducted at the site.

Photo shows chrome being combined and stabilized inside the bin.

Summer 2004

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Continue to implement and improve benefit criteria used in determining the cost of cleaning up pollution.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Initiated the Brownfields Land Recycling Program to redevelop impacted properties and revitalize communities.

KEY LONG-TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Continue to conduct oversight at federal facilities to assure compliance with state regulatory requirements and to work closely with federal agencies to continue remediation of contaminated sites.

BUREAU OF FEDERAL FACILITIES

PURPOSE:

Oversee environmental remediation activities at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) locations in Nevada such as the Nevada Test Site (NTS), the Tonopah Test Range, the Central Nevada Test Area, and the Shoal site near Fallon. Activities focus on cleanup of industrial sites, groundwater monitoring and modeling of underground nuclear test areas, and remediation of contaminated soils.

Compliance evaluation inspection at the Hazardous Waste Storage Unit, NTS.

Photo by Ted Zaferatos

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Work with DOE to develop acceptable planning schedules for the remediation of DOE contaminated sites in Nevada.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Continued to implement the terms of consent agreements with DOE for corrective action and waste management activities conducted on the NTS.

Oversight of corrective action excavation and cleanup at Corrective Action Unit 139, NTS.

Photo by Ted Zaferatos

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Work with federal agencies to expedite cleanup of contaminated sites to allow potential re-use of sites and facilities for both defense and non-defense purposes.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Identified approximately 3,200 contaminated sites for assessment and remediation at the above-mentioned federal facilities. Approved over 1,370 of these sites for closure.

The Sedan Crater was formed with a 100-kiloton nuclear explosive device. The device was buried 635 feet below the desert alluvium and displaced 12 million tons of earth. The crater is 320 feet deep and 1,280 feet in diameter. The crater is on the National Register of Historic Places and is visible from space.

Sedan was fired at the NTS on July 6, 1962.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Conduct inspections to determine if federal facilities are in compliance with applicable state environmental laws and regulations.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Conducted approximately 285 compliance inspections.

NTS Radioactive Waste Management Site.

Area 3 consists of tiered crates where low-level radioactive waste is disposed of in various types of containers within the disposal crater.

Photos by John Wong

KEY LONG-TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Continue to conduct oversight at federal facilities to assure compliance with state regulatory requirements and to work closely with DOE to continue remediation of contaminated sites.
- The DOE is moving its Environmental Management activities and budget to the Office of Legacy Management and National Nuclear Security Administration purview. This could have an adverse impact on agency funding and with cleanup operations at DOE facilities. The long-term objective of the bureau is to maintain agency oversight funding and continue to facilitate DOE's remedial efforts.

BUREAU OF MINING REGULATION AND RECLAMATION

PURPOSE:

The Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation is divided into three major programs: the Regulation Branch, the Mine Closure Branch, and the Reclamation Branch.

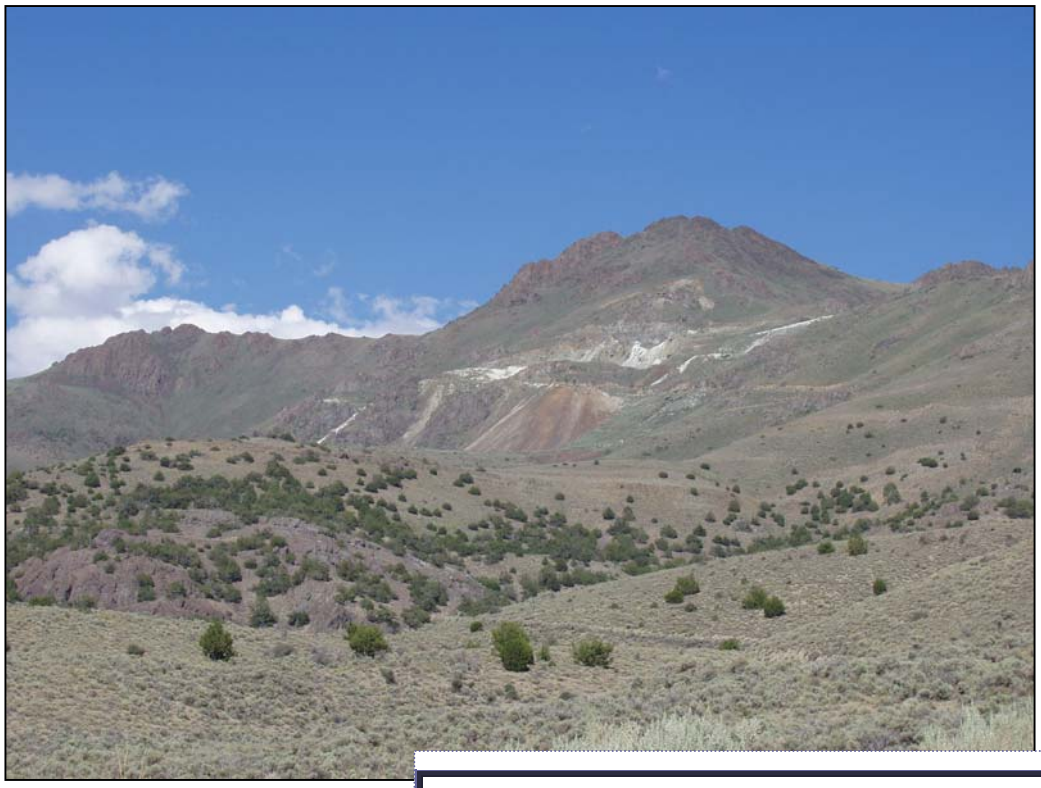
The Regulation Branch is responsible for ensuring that the quality of Nevada's water resources is not adversely impacted by active mining operations. The branch issues permits to prevent degradation of Nevada's water, conducts inspections, takes appropriate action to ensure compliance with permit conditions, and reviews the regulatory fee structure that supports the branch.

The Mine Closure Branch regulates mines in closure, ensuring chemical stabilization of all components. The branch issues permits to prevent degradation of Nevada's water, conducts inspections, takes appropriate action to ensure compliance with permit conditions, and reviews the regulatory fee structure that supports the branch.

The Mining Reclamation Branch ensures that land disturbed by mining and exploration activities is returned to a productive post-mining land use. The branch issues reclamation permits, reviews bond cost estimates and establishes surety requirements, conducts compliance inspections, initiates regulatory actions, and reviews the regulatory fee structure that supports the branch.

Pipeline Pit, Crescent Valley.

Photo by Dave Gaskin
April 2004



Red Bird Mine, historic site in the Jackson Mountains.

Photo by Dave Gaskin
Summer 2004

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Provide a well-established regulatory framework whereby environmentally responsible mining is encouraged and environmentally irresponsible mining is prevented.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Issued 107 permits and conducted 1,145 inspections. Few enforcement actions were required to maintain compliance.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Work closely with the regulated community, fellow governmental agencies, and stakeholder groups to improve mine closure techniques and overall mine closure direction.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Investigated mine closure strategies including engineered caps and covers, evapotranspiration and evaporation basins, land application of limited amounts of process fluids, enhanced solution evaporative practices, in-situ treatment of targeted process solution constituents, advanced process solution flow rate and transport models, and advanced risk assessment tools.

Facilities utilizing hazardous chemicals for processing ores are generally required to meet a zero discharge performance standard.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

The goal is zero discharge for mine closures. Agencies and operators are aggressively pursuing technologies to make zero discharge of long-term drain down solutions a standard mining practice.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Through the use of component covers and evapotranspiration basins, there are currently five mines in closure pursuing the goal of a long-term zero discharge mine closure strategy.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Establish and sustain a system of surety that is durable and fiscally secure.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Convened a state bonding task force to evaluate bonding issues.
- Established a corporate guarantee review panel.

KEY LONG-TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Prevent degradation of waters of the state and ensure proper reclamation of mining impacted lands.

Reclamation project at the Round Mountain Mine.

Photo by Dave Gaskin
August 2004

BUREAU OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE:

Plan, regulate, and permit activities to ensure environmentally sound management of solid and hazardous waste. Authorized to implement Subtitle C and D (hazardous and solid waste components) of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Enforce the state's CAPP to protect the public health and safety, and the environment from the hazards of accidental releases of highly hazardous chemicals.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Prevent uncontrolled release of hazardous waste to the environment through effective permitting controls, compliance monitoring, and enforcement.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- There are roughly 3,500 generators of hazardous waste in Nevada, about 50 transporters, and six permitted facilities that treat, store, or dispose of hazardous waste. The compliance rate for generators inspected was 95%. Permitted facilities inspected quarterly were in compliance.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Prevent release of pollutants or contaminants from solid waste disposal facilities through effective permitting controls, compliance monitoring, and enforcement.

Beatty Landfill.

Located 10 miles south of the town of Beatty, this landfill is permitted for hazardous waste disposal.

Above: Container storage area, May 2003
Right: Aerial photo, November 2003
Photos courtesy of US Ecology, Inc.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Completed a study of potential groundwater impacts from closed landfill sites. Results showed that closed, small, rural landfill sites do not represent a significant threat to groundwater quality.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Reduce the risk of catastrophic release of highly hazardous chemicals. Conduct technical reviews of facility risk assessments, monitoring of compliance with hazard abatement plans and reporting requirements, and enforcement.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Continued to conduct inspections at the 45 registered facilities.
- Continued to be actively involved with local agencies in reviewing applications for new facilities.

CAPP regulated facility.

TIMET vacuum distillation process, hot vessel movement.

Kean Canyon, north of I-80 near Mustang.

Photos courtesy of Craig Wilkinson, TIMET
May 2003

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Reduce generation of solid and hazardous waste in Nevada by encouraging waste reduction, recycling, and product substitution.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Diverted approximately 16% of the roughly three million tons disposed in landfills each year.
- Continued to increase promotion of recycling in the Clark County area.

Achieving Zero Waste: Composting Example

Biodegradable and compostable items are delivered to Full Circle Compost and combined with wood chips and manure to aid in the composting process.

Week 1

Temperature and carbon levels are monitored throughout the process.

The material is emptied onto the designated composting site. A front-end loader shapes the windrows. During the composting process, the windrows are mechanically turned and moistened to encourage the natural decomposition of organic material.

The compositing process is nearly complete.

Week 8

BUREAU OF WATER QUALITY PLANNING

PURPOSE:

Protect Nevada's limited surface waters through the establishment of water quality standards, monitoring, public education, and the funding of water quality improvement projects. Develop local, regional, and statewide plans to ensure water quality standards are maintained and impaired surface waters are restored where possible. Administer a laboratory certification program to ensure laboratories performing water analysis for the Safe Drinking Water and/or Clean Water Act prescribe to established methods and procedures.

Stream restoration project.

BioEngineeering Workshop on the Carson River at the Ambrose Natural Area.

Photo by Paul Pugsley
October 2002

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Review and update water quality standards and beneficial uses at least once every three years.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Staff updated water quality standards for pH, ammonia, and bacteria statewide.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Conduct statewide water quality sampling to determine compliance with applicable standards.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

Continued to perform water quality monitoring to verify compliance with the standards on all major water systems within Nevada.

Staff taking flow measurements in Clear Creek.

Photo by Karen Vargas
July 2003

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Prepare water quality assessment reports and impaired surface water listings. Develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to improve surface water quality. Mitigate the adverse effects from nonpoint source pollution through implementation of water quality improvement projects and public education. Prepare a final Continuing Planning Process document for how water quality standards, permits, and impaired listings are prepared and processed.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Published an extensive update to the impaired waters list for the state.
- Developed TMDLs for the East Fork of the Owyhee River, Muddy River, Virgin River, and Bryant Creek.

Bryant Creek.

Muddy River.

- Provided funding for approximately 30 water quality improvement projects statewide and participated in 15 public education events.

High School students Ann Larquier and Greg Bryant representing Nevada at the Year of Clean Water Summit in Washington D.C. The Nevada team placed 2nd among the 50 states.

Photo by Sue Moreda
October 2002

Walker Lake.

KEY LONG-TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Continue negotiating with EPA to embark on a thorough review of the state's beneficial uses of water and water quality standards before developing TMDLs.
- Continue working on the Carson River watershed and plans to transition into the Upper Humboldt River in 2005.

BUREAU OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

PURPOSE:

Preserve and protect Nevada's water resources through issuing wastewater discharge permits, conducting compliance inspections, and enforcing water pollution control permit requirements. Administer the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program and the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program. Review and approve the design of wastewater treatment facilities. Review subdivision plans for water pollution and adequate sewage disposal, and conduct training and certification programs for wastewater treatment plant operators. Administer a grant program to assist small publicly owned drinking water systems.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Continue with early intervention and proactive planning through the water pollution control permitting programs.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Increased the activities of the Groundwater Protection Branch to address potential groundwater pollution from septic tanks, oil/water separators, injection wells, etc.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

Continue to assist communities by the issuance of water and wastewater treatment construction loans, and provide training and technical assistance for wastewater treatment plant operators.

State Revolving Loan Program sign for a water pollution control project.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Processed approximately $207 million in wastewater treatment facility construction loans from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program.
- Processed approximately $50 million in drinking water facility construction loans from the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program.

Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility in Sparks.

The effluent from this facility discharges to the Truckee River and to county re-use sites. In 2004, this facility submitted plans for expansion and upgrade. The State Revolving Loan Program will fund this project.

The first photo shows selector zones in aeration basin to enhance phosphorous removal.

The second photo shows nitrification towers built to address problems with the conversion of ammonia to nitrates.

Photos by Joe Maez
2004

KEY LONG-TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Continue to provide grants to publicly owned drinking water systems that cannot afford the costs for improvements required under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The fund is minimal and will require legislative appropriation. The bureau has proposed funding increases to support small public drinking water systems throughout Nevada to assist such systems with compliance requirements stipulated under the SDWA.
- Seek approval from the 2005 Legislature to transfer the Public Water Supply Supervision Program component of the SDWA from the State Health Division to NDEP. The transfer would facilitate coordination with existing groundwater protection programs to address land development, sewage disposal, and source water protection issues. This transfer would also fulfill the intent of transferring all components of the SDWA to NDEP in order to develop a statewide comprehensive surface and groundwater protection program.

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND PLANNING

PURPOSE:

Provide planning, policy analysis, public information, and information technology services to the division. Coordinate activities associated with the National Environmental Information Exchange Network and the National Environmental Public Health Tracking System. Provide staff support in natural resource damage cases.

GOAL OR OBJECTIVE:

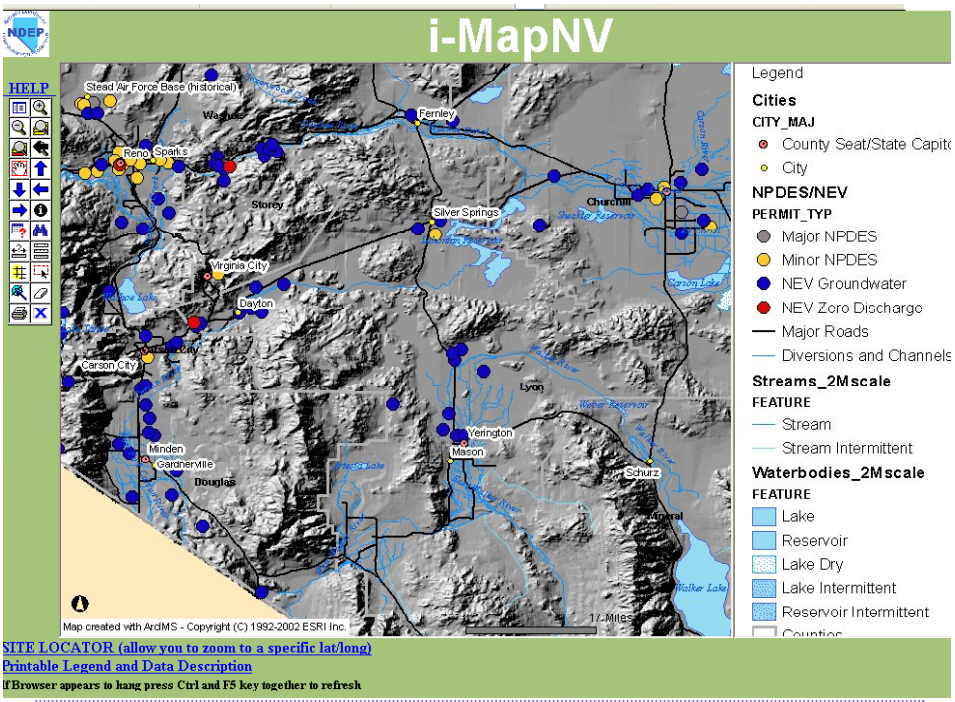
Develop a plan to upgrade database systems and streamline business processes.

ACCOMPLISHMENT:

- Completed the agency 2003 Information Management Plan.

KEY LONG-TERM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

- Implement the agency 2003 Information Management Plan.
- Develop a communications strategy to engage stakeholders in relevant environmental issues, manage media relations regarding significant or controversial issues, and inform the public of key activities and accomplishments.



Example of i-MapNV created to enable interactive mapping of environmental sites.